

Elijah

The LORD Raises up a Prophet

Sunday, October 22, 2000

Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house and gave him to his mother; and Elijah said, “See, your son is alive.” Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth.”

- 1 Kings 17:23-24, NASB

The Background

Time: approximately 848 BC

Location: Israel, the Northern Kingdom

Key Players: The LORD

Elijah, the Prophet of the Lord

Ahab, the King of Israel,

Jezebel, the King’s wife

Ravens

An unnamed widow

The widow’s son

Situation: Divided Kingdom

Spiritual Apostasy

Corrupt Ahab

A drought and a famine brought on the land

The Outline

1 Kings Chapter 16

v 29 Ahab becomes king of Israel

v 30 The LORD’s evaluation of Ahab - totally evil

v 31 Ahab marries Jezebel

v 32-33 Brief list of Ahab’s idolatry

v 34 The rebuilding of Jericho - see Joshua 6:26

1 Kings Chapter 17

v 1 God sends Elijah to Ahab, to prophesy drought

v 2-3 The LORD sends Elijah to Kidron east of the Jordan

v 4-7 First miracle: The brook and the ravens provide

v 8-9 The LORD sends Elijah to Zerepath in Sidon

v 10-15 Elijah and the widow’s last meal

v 16 Second miracle: The multiplication of flour and oil

v 17-23 Third miracle: returning widow’s son from the dead

The Words

Baal - הַבְּעָלִים emphatic pl. (cf. ,האלהים, האדונים) the great lord, the sovereign owner, master, husband, and used as the Canaanite generic name for any “god.” Worship of these deities many times involved ritual prostitution (Judges 2:17, Jeremiah 7:9, Amos 2:7) and child sacrifice (Jeremiah 19:5). Note that the chief of these pagan deities was considered to be the god of nature, and especially of the weather.

Jezebel - אֵיזֶבֶל Jezebel = “Baal exalts” or “Baal is husband to” or “unchaste” - queen of Israel, wife of Ahab, daughter of Ethbaal who was king of the Sidonians and priest of the goddess Astarte, consort of Baal.

Asherah - אֲשֵׁרָה (or אֲשִׁירָה) Ashera(h) = groves for idol worship of a Babylonian (Astarte)-Canaanite goddess (of fortune and happiness), the supposed consort of Baal, her images; or the goddess, her images, or sacred trees or poles set up near an altar

The Final Word

Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse. - Malachi 4:5-6, NASB